

clamping a steel coupling over the sealer tape which renders the sealed joint leak proof and provides structural integrity.

A<sub>1</sub>  
(contd)

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Please amend claim 7 as follows:

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7. A system for forming a sealed joint between two thin aluminum pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid conduits, the system comprising:

means for positioning the two pipe ends in an abutted end to end orientation with an alignment holder;

a steel coupling;

a sealer tape for applying to the abutted ends; and

means for clamping the stainless steel coupling over the sealer tape to render the sealed joint leak proof and to provide structural integrity.

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Please add new claims 21, 22, 23 and 24.

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21. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
holding the thin walled pipe;  
cutting the thin walled pipe ends for properly squaring each pipe end;  
rounding each squared pipe end with a mandrel for providing uniform pipe ends; and  
installing the steel coupling proximate to one end of one of the pipes.

22. (New) The system of claim 7 further comprising:  
means for holding the thin metallic pipe;  
means for cutting the pipe ends for properly squaring the ends; and  
means for rounding each squared pipe end.

23. (New) A seal joint for an overhead pipe system for a fluid distribution system manufactured according to the method of claim 1 comprising:

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a pair of thin wall metallic pipe ends, each having a squared cut end and a rounded cross-sectional configuration, said pair of pipe ends positioned in a parallel and an abutted end to end relationship to each other;

a sealer tape applied around the abutted pipe ends, wherein the sealer tape has a first end and a second end and said second end forms an overlap of the first end around said pipe ends; and

a steel coupling clamped over the sealer tape.

24. (New) A system for forming a sealed joint between two thin aluminum pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid conduits and manufactured according to the method of claim 1, said system comprising:

means for positioning the two pipe ends in an abutted end to end orientation with an alignment holder;

a steel coupling;

a sealer tape for applying to the abutted ends; and

means for clamping the stainless steel coupling over the sealer tape to render the sealed joint leak proof and to provide structural integrity.

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A<sub>3</sub>  
(as modified)